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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2002

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Report Highlights:

Export prices increased slightly due mainly to the continued appreciation of Baht, resulting in the sluggish export demand.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1], TH

Indicative Price (Week Ending Nov 11):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	325	320	359	326	340	317	325	330	339
WR 100 B	197	190	196	195	192	194	192	194	193
PB 5%	194	194	197	196	194	200	195	196	196
WR 5%	191	185	189	189	187	188	187	188	187
WR 10%	186	180	184	187	183	185	183	184	183
WR 15%	184	177	180	185	179	182	179	181	180
WR 25%	178	172	178	182	174	174	175	176	175
WR 35%	178	170	176	181	170	171	171	174	172
A 1 SUP	163	160	160	161	160	157	161	160	159
A 1 SPEC	162	158	159	160	159	NQ	159	160	158
Source: Average actual prices are received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for most grade of rices increased slightly due mainly to the continued stronger Baht against the U.S. dollar to approximately 42.98 Baht/U.S. dollar, highest since Sep 19, 2002. Trade sources reported that Baht appreciation resulted in a sluggish export demand as foreign buyers expected lower prices during the beginning of the harvest period. As for the government intervention program, from Nov 1, 2002 until February 28, 2003, trade sources pointed that the regulation was so strict that some local millers were unlikely to join the program. The major concern is on the trading activities of millers under the program as millers are limited to buying paddy only within their provinces. The strict measures are to ensure that the money will go directly to farmers and to prevent millers from selling rice in storage which actually belongs to the government. The official reported that more than 20 millers were caught faking their records and got blacklisted the previous year as a result.

The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
OCT 12	159,290	127,581	4,599	5,454
OCT 19	163,877	145,029	4,762	5,646
OCT 26	146,929	154,358	4,575	5,815
NOV 2	134,240	151,084	5,044	5,815
NOV 9	124,720	142,441	5,168	6,192

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports for Nov 3-9, 2002, totaled 124,720 tons, down 9,520 tons from the previous week's total and down 17,721 tons from the four week moving average of 142,441 tons.

Exports during Jan 1- Nov 10, 2002, amounted to 5,171,910 tons, compared with 6,192,040 tons (including fragrant rice) during the same period in 2001.

According to Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan - Oct 29, 2002, were 5,874,232 tons, down 0.1 percent from the corresponding period in 2001. Trade sources reported that in CY 2002 total rice exports would likely be close to the government target of 7.0 million tons, assuming that the exports of non-fragrant rice for the rest of the year is 0.1 million ton a week (worst case scenario) and those for fragrant rice in CY 2002 are at 1.1 million ton. Meanwhile, reports out of Thailand indicate that India is unlikely to replace Thailand as the world's no.1 rice exporter in CY 2002 as expected earlier due to problems in the rice quality of the existing stock and the delayed harvesting of new crop.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period Oct 21-25, Oct 28 - Nov 1, and Nov 4-8, 2002 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Oct 21-25	Oct 28 - Nov 1	Nov 4-8
weekly sales	126,485	110,076	114,778
4 week sum	600,380	557,841	493,056
4 week mov avg.	150,581	139,460	123,264
Total weekly sales	3,967,625	4,077,701	4,192,479